



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 16 No. 2

February 2004

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Reflects Little Change in January

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ticked up a tenth of a percentage point to 5.2 percent in January from an estimated 5.1 percent (revised) in December. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents was virtually unchanged, inching up only 100 over the month to 29,400. A year ago, the unemployment rate was 5.4 percent and the jobless level stood at 30,900. The national jobless figure edged down a tenth of a percentage point in January to 5.6 percent, the lowest point since January 2002. Rhode Island's unemployment rate has remained below the national average for thirty straight months.

"With the release of the January labor force estimates, Rhode Island's historical labor force series reflect some changes due to the annual revision process," said Acting Director Marvin D. Perry. "As a result, Rhode Island's unemployment rates, which were revised upwards for the last four months of 2003, show little month-to-month movement, reflecting a continued slow pace of economic activity."

Rhode Island Job Highlights

Rhode Island businesses reported a gain of 1,700 jobs (seasonally adjusted) last month, bringing the January job count to 487,400. Over-the-month employment gains in Leisure & Hospitality (+800), Construction (+500) and Professional & Business Services (+300), overshadowed losses in Manufacturing (-400) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-400). Government remained unchanged over the month.

The unadjusted job count for January stood at 476,500. Typically, employment drops in the December-January period. However, this year's decline of 15,400 (-3.1%) is the smallest since January 1995. Employment losses were reported in all economic sectors with the largest reductions in Retail Trade (-3,000), Administrative & Waste Services (-2,300), Educational Services (-2,200), Construction (-1,900), Accommodation & Food Services (-1,500), Manufacturing (-1,200) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-900). Although these losses were sizable, they were, in most cases, less than the average declines experienced during the last five years. (Continued on Page 4)

RI Affirmative Action Data 2000 Census of Population & Housing

The Department of Labor and Training, Labor Market Information unit, recently released the new Rhode Island Affirmative Action report. The Equal Employment Opportunity tables in this report were prepared using the 2000 US Census of Population and Housing Equal Employment Opportunity file, which is available on the Census web site (www.census.gov). The Labor Market Information Unit of the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training has the responsibility for formatting the data to meet the US Census labor force data requirements for an Affirmative Action Plan. To view this report or request a hard copy, visit www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/publications/affirm.htm or call LMI at 401-462-8740. If your company needs help developing an Affirmative Action Plan, please contact:

RI Department of Administration
Office of Personnel Administration
Equal Opportunity Office
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5865
Telephone: 401-222-3090
Fax: 401-222-6391

Labor Surplus Areas for Rhode Island October 1, 2003 - September 30, 2004

The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, recently released the following labor surplus areas for the State of Rhode Island:

- *Central Falls
- *New Shoreham
- *Providence
- *Woonsocket

This list, which became effective October 1, 2003, will remain in effect until September 30, 2004. Employers located in the labor surplus area may be given preference in bidding on federal procurement contracts. The purpose in providing such preference is to help direct the government's procurement dollars into areas where people are in the most severe economic need based on their high unemployment rates.

Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics*

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Jan 04	Dec 03	Jan 03	Jan 04	Dec 03	Jan 03
Civilian Labor Force	568.6	572.9	570.1	565.2	574.7	566.4
Resident Employment	539.2	543.6	539.2	530.5	546.5	530.3
Unemployment	29.4	29.3	30.9	34.7	28.2	36.1
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	5.1%	5.4%	6.1%	4.9%	6.4%

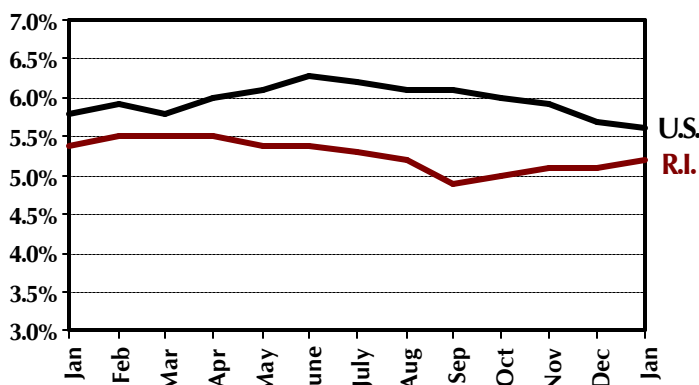
United States Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Jan 04	Dec 03	Jan 03	Jan 04	Dec 03	Jan 03
Civilian Labor Force	146,863	146,878	145,875	146,068	146,501	145,301
Resident Employment	138,566	138,479	137,447	136,924	138,556	135,907
Unemployment	8,297	8,398	8,428	9,144	7,945	9,395
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	5.7%	5.8%	6.3%	5.4%	6.5%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted 2003-2004



City & Town

Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Jan 04	Jan 03**
Barrington	3.5	3.2
Bristol	5.8	6.2
Burrillville	6.7	7.1
Central Falls	8.9	10.3
Charlestown	6.9	7.1
Coventry	6.0	6.3
Cranston	5.7	5.6
Cumberland	6.1	5.8
East Greenwich	5.1	5.8
East Providence	6.7	7.1
Exeter	6.4	6.6
Foster	8.2	7.2
Glocester	5.9	5.6
Hopkinton	5.9	4.7
Jamestown	5.2	5.0
Johnston	6.8	6.8
Lincoln	5.5	5.5
Little Compton	6.3	6.8
Middletown	6.3	6.4
Narragansett	4.3	4.6
New Shoreham	19.0	17.5
Newport	6.5	7.0
North Kingstown	4.8	4.8
North Providence	5.8	6.0
North Smithfield	5.8	6.9
Pawtucket	7.3	7.2
Portsmouth	4.6	4.8
Providence	6.4	7.2
Richmond	3.7	3.4
Scituate	6.5	7.5
Smithfield	5.1	5.3
South Kingstown	5.5	5.4
Tiverton	7.6	7.1
Warren	6.4	6.3
Warwick	5.3	5.6
West Greenwich	5.5	4.6
West Warwick	7.2	7.6
Westerly	5.8	4.9
Woonsocket	7.4	8.2
State of R.I.	6.1	6.4

** Revised

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Jan	Dec	Jan	% Change		Annual Comparison		
	2004	2003	2003	Dec 03	Jan 03	2003	2002	% Change
Initial Claims	10,690	12,195	13,176	-12.3%	-18.9%	89,198	88,303	1.0%
Number of Payments	66,169	59,760	71,990	10.7%	-8.1%	695,359	703,694	-1.2%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$20.5	\$18.5	\$21.6	11.2%	-4.7%	\$209.1	\$208.6	0.2%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,409	1,614	1,444	-12.7%	-2.4%	18,255	18,166	0.5%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$189.1	\$205.5	\$236.5	-8.0%	-20.0%			

Rhode Island labor market information is available on the web at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi. If you find that the LMI web site meets your need for labor market information and you would like to be removed from the mailing list for this publication, please call LMI at (401) 462-8740 or e-mail us at lmi@dlt.state.ri.us.

*Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised. Totals may not add due to rounding.
Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

Total Nonfarm Employment in Rhode Island*

January 2004

Sectors reflect the recent conversion from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).
Not all industries previously classified under a particular SIC are classified in a similarly titled NAICS sector.

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	Jan 2004	Dec 2003	Jan 2003	Dec 2003	Jan 2003
Total Nonfarm	476.5	491.9	469.9	-15,400	6,600
Goods Producing	78.2	81.4	77.5	-3,200	700
Natural Resources & Mining	0.1	0.2	0.2	-100	-100
Construction	20.2	22.1	17.2	-1,900	3,000
Specialty Trade Contractors	13.3	14.4	11.2	-1,100	2,100
Manufacturing	57.9	59.1	60.1	-1,200	-2,200
Durable Goods	37.4	38.2	39.5	-800	-2,100
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.8	7.9	8.6	-100	-800
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.0	5.2	5.2	-200	-200
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.9	3.8	3.8	100	100
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.7	11.2	11.5	-500	-800
Jewelry & Silverware	7.6	8.0	8.3	-400	-700
Non-Durable Goods	20.5	20.9	20.6	-400	-100
Chemical Manufacturing	4.3	4.2	3.9	100	400
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.1	3.1	3.2	0	-100
Service Providing	398.3	410.5	392.4	-12,200	5,900
Wholesale Trade	16.2	16.4	16.4	-200	-200
Retail Trade	52.8	55.8	52.4	-3,000	400
Grocery Stores	6.8	6.7	6.2	100	600
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.7	5.7	5.7	0	0
General Merchandise Stores	10.2	11.2	10.4	-1,000	-200
Department Stores	4.5	5.2	4.6	-700	-100
* Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.6	11.8	10.8	-200	800
Transportation & Warehousing	10.4	10.6	9.7	-200	700
Information	10.7	10.8	11.1	-100	-400
Publishing	3.3	3.3	3.3	0	0
** Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	33.4	33.7	33.1	-300	300
Finance & Insurance	27.0	27.3	27.0	-300	0
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	12.9	13.0	12.2	-100	700
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	10.5	10.7	10.9	-200	-400
Professional & Technical Services	18.9	19.1	19.1	-200	-200
Administrative & Waste Services	20.7	23.0	20.0	-2,300	700
Educational Services	18.8	21.0	19.9	-2,200	-1,100
Colleges & Universities	11.2	13.2	13.1	-2,000	-1,900
Health Care & Social Assistance	71.3	71.6	69.7	-300	1,600
Ambulatory Health Care Services	20.6	20.7	20.0	-100	600
Hospitals	22.4	22.4	22.1	0	300
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	17.9	17.9	17.6	0	300
Social Assistance	10.4	10.6	10.0	-200	400
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	5.5	6.4	5.6	-900	-100
Accommodation & Food Services	40.3	41.8	37.7	-1,500	2,600
Accommodation	3.4	3.7	3.2	-300	200
Food Services & Drinking Places	36.9	38.1	34.5	-1,200	2,400
Other Services	23.0	23.2	22.2	-200	800
Government	67.4	68.1	67.1	-700	300
Federal Government	10.1	10.2	10.2	-100	-100
State Government	17.6	17.7	18.0	-100	-400
Local Government	39.7	40.2	38.9	-500	800
Local Education	26.4	26.7	25.8	-300	600
Local Non-Ed	13.3	13.5	13.1	-200	200

* Utilities are not broken out separately

** Real Estate & Rentals is not broken out separately

Some subcategories are not additive.

Current month figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

Rhode Island's Unemployment Rate Reflects Little Change in January

(Continued from Page 1)

The drop in Retail Trade employment was largely attributed to employment reductions in General Merchandise stores, marking the end of the holiday shopping season. Declines in the Employment Services job count, which includes Temporary Help Agencies, contributed to the dip in Administrative & Waste Services. The temporary closing of the state's private colleges and universities due to semester break was largely responsible for the decrease in Educational Services employment.

Over the year, employment (unadjusted) was up 6,600 (+1.4%) from the 469,600 jobs (revised) reported in January 2003. The largest over-the-year gains were noted in Construction (+3,000), Accommodation & Food Services (+2,600) and Health Care & Social Assistance (+1,600). Other Services (+800), Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (+800) and Administrative & Waste Services (+700) reported notable gains as well. The largest employment losses occurred in Manufacturing (-2,200), Educational Services (-1,100) and Information (-400). Government employment increased by 300 over the year, as gains on the Local level (+800) overshadowed losses in the Federal (-100) and State (-400) segments.

Hours and Earnings

Although the average hourly wage earned by the Manufacturing sector's production workers was down one cent when compared to December 2003, the January 2004 average hourly rate of \$12.96 represents a yearly gain of eighteen cents per hour. In January 2004, Manufacturing employees worked an average of 39.3 hours per week, an increase of one full hour from January 2003. In December 2003 the average workweek was 40.9 hours.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Jan 04	Dec 03	Jan 03	% Change
				Prev. Year
All Items	185.2	184.3	181.7	1.9%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Workers' Compensation Education Unit Announces Seminars

The RI Workers' Compensation Education Unit has announced the following seminars. Space is limited and registration is required. Please visit www.dlt.ri.gov/wc/edunitseminars.htm or call 401-462-8112 for more information.

Return to Work Programs: A Practical Approach

Radisson Airport Hotel April 21, 2004
2081 Post Rd 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.
Warwick, RI 02886 Registration at 8:30 a.m.
Attend this seminar to learn how to create effective programs and hear how others have succeeded with their programs.

Physician's Office Staff Workshop

RI Department of Labor & Training May 6, 2004
1511 Pontiac Ave., Bldg. 73 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Cranston, RI 02920 Registration at 8:30 a.m.
Provides procedures to follow in accordance with the RI Workers' Compensation and the RI Temporary Disability Insurance laws.

Safety Issues in the Healthcare Setting

Rhodes On-The-Pawtuxet, Inc. June 24, 2004
60 Rhodes Place 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.
Cranston, RI 02905 Registration at 8:30 a.m.
An overview of the applicable OSHA standards will be provided.

Manufacturing Employment in Rhode Island, Not Seasonally Adjusted January 2004

	Employment					Production Worker Averages					
	(in thousands)			Net Change From:		Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Jan 04	Dec 03	Jan 03	Dec 03	Jan 03	Jan 04	Dec 03	Jan 03	Jan 04	Dec 03	Jan 03
Manufacturing	57.9	59.1	60.1	-1200	-2200	39.3	40.9	38.3	12.96	12.97	12.78
Durable Goods	37.4	38.2	39.5	-800	-2100	39.3	40.3	38.4	12.96	12.96	12.79
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	7.8	7.9	8.6	-100	-800	39.6	39.7	38.1	11.54	11.58	11.37
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.0	5.2	5.2	-200	-200	36.5	38.2	41.4	13.75	13.80	13.74
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.9	3.8	3.8	100	100	38.6	38.6	43.5	15.37	15.37	15.62
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.7	11.2	11.5	-500	-800	37.2	38.1	38.2	10.77	10.75	10.51
Jewelry and Silverware	7.6	8.0	8.3	-400	-700	38.1	39.1	37.9	10.10	10.06	9.84
Non-Durable Goods	20.5	20.9	20.6	-400	-100	39.4	42.0	38.2	12.96	12.98	12.75
Chemical Manufacturing	4.3	4.2	3.9	100	400	40.4	40.1	39.1	15.50	15.50	15.65
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.1	3.1	3.2	0	-100	41.1	41.0	40.4	14.74	14.70	14.49



A Year in Review, 2003

Establishment Employment in Rhode Island

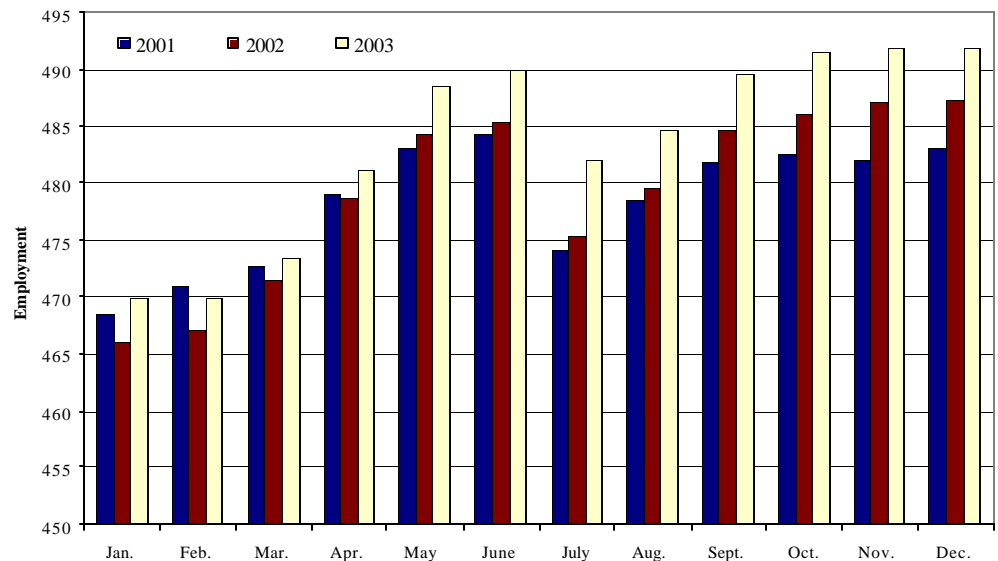


Rhode Island job growth was stronger than previously estimated according to data released by the Department of Labor and Training. The Ocean State benefited from the addition of 4,300 private and public sector jobs in 2003, based on revised data supplied by the state's Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. Last year, nonfarm employers reported an estimated 483,700 jobs, representing job growth of nearly one percent (+0.9%) from the revised 2002 total of 479,400 jobs. This annual increase was higher than that experienced between 2000 and 2001 (+1,700) and between 2001 and 2002

(+1,000). However, 2003 marked the third straight year of employment growth below one percent.

Year-over-year employment growth was reported in every month of the 2003 calendar year, with the largest gains occurring in July (+6,700), October (+5,400), and August (+5,200). In fact, the state has experienced year-over-year gains in total nonfarm employment for twenty straight months, dating back to May 2002.

Total Nonfarm Establishment Employment in Rhode Island
January 2001-December 2003
(in thousands)



Annual Average Establishment Employment by Industry Sector

Unadjusted Employment in Thousands

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>Numerical Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Total Nonfarm	483.7	479.4	4,300	0.9%
Natural Resources & Mining	0.2	0.2	0	0.0%
Construction	20.8	19.4	1,400	7.2%
Manufacturing	58.9	62.3	-3,400	-5.5%
Wholesale Trade	16.4	16.5	-100	-0.6%
Retail Trade	53.1	53.1	0	0.0%
Transport., Warehousing, & Utilities	11.3	10.9	400	3.7%
Information	11.0	11.2	-200	-1.8%
Financial Activities	33.6	32.9	700	2.1%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	19.2	19.0	200	1.1%
Administrative & Waste Services	22.6	23.2	-600	-2.6%
Educational Services	20.1	19.3	800	4.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance	70.4	68.8	1,600	2.3%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	7.3	7.1	200	2.8%
Accommodation & Food Services	42.0	40.9	1,100	2.7%
Other Services	22.9	22.0	900	4.1%
Government	66.5	66.1	400	0.6%

Between 2002 and 2003, Health Care & Social Assistance establishments added 1,600 jobs to the local economy - the most of any industry sector in the Ocean State. The Construction (+1,400) and Accommodation & Food Services (+1,100) sectors also reported notable employment growth during this period. On a percentage basis, the largest job gains were reported in Construction (+7.2%), Educational Services (+4.1%), and Other Services (+4.1%). Four sectors reported job losses between 2002 and 2003, including Manufacturing (-5.5%), Administrative & Waste Services (-2.6%), Information (-1.8%), and Wholesale Trade (-0.6%).